

one of the inspectors or professors said that a kind of referendum had been taken among the students with regard to the teaching of the French language. I am glad to say that the people of Ottawa are not as bigoted as some other people in Ontario. This gentleman said that 90 per cent of the English students asked that the French language be taught in the schools. I think that if this legislation were disallowed, it might teach a lesson to the Ontario legislature, and show them that they could not defy the judgment of the Privy Council by re-enacting such legislation. They might well take into consideration the opinion expressed by Professor Squair and the students in Ottawa, and say, "Let us have the French language taught as much as possible." They might tell the people to follow the example which has been shown to them in Quebec. There is not a college or a commercial school in Quebec where the students are not obliged to learn to speak and write the English language. In the classic and commercial college curricula there is a special clause saying that English will be taught. Why is this? It is because we in Quebec are not afraid of the English language. On the contrary, we desire it. Everybody is anxious to learn English, because they know that a man who can use two tools is of more value than a man who can use only one. They know that in this country, with its mixed population, a man who can speak two languages is more useful than he would be if he could speak only one. A commercial man, a business man, a member of the House of Commons or of the Senate, is a better man if he can speak both the official languages of the country. When occasions arise, as when we receive in this House prominent men of England or prominent men of France, those of us who understand both languages can listen to them with pleasure, and are not obliged to ask our neighbour, "What is he saying?" Do you not think, honourable gentlemen, that it would be better for every man in this country to understand both languages?

I do not urge that the French language should be used more than the English, but I say, put them on the same footing. As I say, all the French professors in our province invite their pupils to learn the English language, and advise all young men to speak it, because it is just as important as French and because in doing that they will be able to earn a better living, they

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE.

will be better men, and more opportunities will be open to them.

Therefore I say this law should be disallowed, and the provincial authorities should be asked to think a little more. If the example of what Quebec has done were pointed out to them, it seems to me that all men of good judgment and intelligence in Ontario ought to be convinced that that law is wrong, and should be repealed, or at least that Ottawa and all French districts should be exempted from its operation, though it will again be a mistake to keep it in force anywhere.

Now, all my authorities have been English, and I will cite some more. There is another gentleman well known in Quebec, a member of the local House representing the Eastern Townships, Mr. Bullock, who was a Protestant minister in these townships until he resigned the ministry, ran for a seat in the local House, and was elected. I have in my hand a report of a lecture given at Quebec by this gentleman. This report appeared in the Quebec Chronicle, which is a good Conservative paper, in its issue of April 1, 1916:

Mr. Bullock was asked to give a lecture at the Morin College Hall. He accepted the invitation, and delivered a strong speech before a large and representative audience of both French and English speaking citizens. Mr. John Hamilton, one of the prominent men of Quebec, occupied the chair, having introduced the speaker, stated that in the large audience present there were many who did not know much about this burning subject. Mr. Hamilton counselled both French and English-speaking citizens to be cautious in the way they discussed this important subject and in introducing Mr. Bullock to the meeting said that he was sure they would know something more about the question after listening to the speaker of the evening than they did before coming there.

Mr. Bullock, who was received with applause, informed his audience that a few days ago when he accepted the invitation to address the Quebec people on this great question he was under the impression that there would be other speakers, but this was his mistake and not the fault of those who invited him to come. Since he had made his speech in the Legislative Assembly on this question he had been told he should mind his own business and not that of the people of Ontario, but, he retorted, while we do not wish to interfere with the people of Ontario in their affairs we at least have a right to think about the question, and to let the people of Ontario know how we feel about the matter.

If the legislature of Quebec passed an act such as was passed in the Ontario legislature, with regard to school questions, would not the English-speaking people of Ontario express their opinion and lend such help as they thought necessary to the people in the Ministry in this province, and who, they thought, were unjustly treated.

Before the year 1841 education in these two provinces was not very flourishing. When the